SUMMER
1996
#23
GAY
comics
$3.50
MATURE
READERS
WINNER
COMIC CREATORS GUILD
BEST ANTHOLOGY
Anina
BENNETT
Catherine
DOHERTY
J.A.
FLUDD
Roberta
GREGORY
Paul
GUINAN
Andy
HARTZELL
David
KELLY
Jon
MACY
Beck
MAIN
Andy
MANGELS
Stephanie
PENNINGTON
WHAT THE--?! HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON... AND WHY WASN'T I INVITED?!!
PLUS
A PULSE-POUNDING TALE OF LOVE, LUST, AND GENETIC ENGINEERING IN THE HAPPENIN'
HEARTBREAKERS
TRADITION--
"MY LOVER... MY CLONE!!"

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome back! With this issue, *Gay Comics* returns to the comic stands with a smorgasbord of new talent.

We're sorry to have been away for the last year, but many factors put the future of *Gay Comics* on temporary hold. The humongous increase in paper prices have made budgeting tighter than ever, while the horrific state of the comic book industry has led to decreased sales across the board. And your editor must take some of the blame, as relationship and career issues took time away from working on this queer old funny book.

But *Gay Comics* is one of the oldest surviving underground comics (though these days I consider it a part of the mainstream "alternative" market). And as one of the oldest, we had to survive. We may be ignored by the *Overstreet Price Guide* and barely mentioned in books on the comic book world or gay culture, but we are still here.

We're still fulfilling the purpose set out by creator **Howard Cruse** in 1980: to provide Gay and Lesbian cartoonists and comic creators a place to make their unique vision heard. That purpose was later upheld by second editor **Robert Triptow** (1985-91), and then, by me (1991-present). Along the way, we've been joined by bisexual and transgendered cartoonists, and even straight creators who had a story to share.

With this issue of *Gay Comics*, we begin our run up to our 25th issue, and our sixteenth year of publishing! This month we have a crossover with Dark Horse's popular *Heartbreakers* series, as well as continuing stories of the gay-super-hero *Sentinel* (now known as "Pride") and **Roberta Gregory**'s popular *Bitchy Butch*. We've got strips from small-press heroes **Jon Macy**, **David Kelly**, and **Andy Hartzell**. And on an international level, we've got newcomers **Catherine Doherty** (Canada), **Beck Main** (Australia), and **Stephanie Pennington** (Germany)!

Our next issue (due out September/October) will include a cover and crossover story with **Sam Kieth**'s Image/MTV series *The Maxx*, sure to bring a lot of new readers! We'll also see the returns of **Joan Hilty**'s *Immola*, Mangels and **Fludd**'s *Pride*, and strips by **Jacki Randall**, **Leanne Franson**, **Steve Matuszak**, **Jennifer Camper**, and Milestone/Marvel writer **Ivan Velez, Jr.** Newcomers will include *Ciao!* publisher **Marc Lynx**, DC/Caliber artist **John Dennis**, and funny newcomer **Paige Braddock**.

And what about that mysterious issue #25 of *Gay Comics* (due around Christmas)? How about an 80-page giant-sized issue featuring new work by almost everyone who has ever contributed to this series? Sound good to you? I thought it might.

Like I said at the beginning, we're sorry to have been away for so long. But we think our plans for the future will help make up for it. We'll see you all soon!

Keep Loving!

Andy Mangels

P.S. Send out a rousing "Hi" and "Thanks" to **Michael Yamashita**. He's the guy who processes your back issue orders and ships to store accounts, making sure you get your *Gay Comics!*

SUBMISSIONS

Send *Gay Comics* submissions and letters to:
Andy Mangels - Editor, Gay Comics
PO Box 3226, Portland, OR, 97208-3226

Submissions responses may take a ***long*** time
Always include both a phone number
and a SASE.

COOL QUEER COMIC BOOKS TO LOOK OUT FOR

STUCK RUBBER BABY (Paradox Press)

Howard Cruse's opus about a young gay man growing up in the South, and dealing with racial prejudice and his own coming out process is a masterpiece. This is a must-have for any socially conscious person of any orientation. At bookstores and comic stores. ISBN #1-56389-216-2.

DYKE STRIPPERS (Cleis Press)

Thirty-five lesbian cartoonists are represented in this incredible collection, edited by Roz Warren. Cartoons aplenty, and interviews with some of the top-ranking creators make this another bookshelf must-have. At bookstores and (few) comic stores, in softcover. ISBN #1-57344-008-6.

GAY COMICS #23: Summer 1996
edited by Andy Mangels

FRONT COVER ..... **"Clones In A Clinch"** by Paul Guinan

Inside Cover Editorial by Andy Mangels

Pg. 2-9 ..... **"Heartbreakers: My Lover. . .My Clone!"** by Anina Bennett & Paul Guinan

Pg. 10-11 ..... **"Walter Ego: The Kloseted Kid"** by Andy Hartzell

Pg. 12-14 ..... **"Blue Whale Inn: I Heard It Through The Grapevine"** by Stephanie Pennington

Pg. 15-17 ..... **"Personal Adventuring"** by Jon Macy

Pg. 18-19 ..... **"Human Interaction"** by Beck Main

Pg. 22-25 ..... **"Wanted"** by Catherine Doherty

Pg. 26-30 ..... **"Pride: Misconceptions"** by Andy Mangels & J.A. Fludd

Pg. 31-34 ..... **"Steven's Comics: The Lost Dolls"** by David Kelly

Pg. 35-39 ..... **"Bitchy Butch Meets A Nice Guy!"** by Roberta Gregory

Pg. 40 ..... **Letters Page**

Inside Cover..... Contributors

BACK COVER ..... **"Queer Symbolism"** by Roberta Gregory

Cover Coloring and layouts by Paul Guinan, Roberta Gregory, and In Color of San Diego

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Please state that you are over 18

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Design by Andy Mangels Publications

DAY 164
FORCED TO FLEE EARTH AFTER HER DISCOVERIES TOUCHED OFF VIOLENT SOCIAL UPHEAVAL, GENETICIST THERESE SORENSON WENT INTO HIDING ON GANYMEDE. FOR THREE MONTHS SHE AND HER CLONES HAVE ORBITED JUPITER, SECRETLY CONTINUING HER RESEARCH.
OUR HEROINES ARE HOLED UP IN AN UNDERGROUND COMPLEX, ITS ENTRANCE CAMOUFLAGED AS A SMALL MINING CAMP. THEIR SURVIVAL HINGES ON THAT DECEPTION, SINCE EVERYONE FROM MILITANT CLONE-BASHERS TO SORENSON'S FORMER EMPLOYER--BIOVOC--WANTS A PIECE OF THEM!
AND SO IT IS THAT PROFESSOR SORENSON FINDS HERSELF CLOISTERED AWAY IN THE OUTER PLANETS, ALONG WITH HER DELTA-SERIES CLONES (LAB ASSISTANTS) AND THE BETA-SERIES BODYGUARDS ALSO KNOWN AS THE...
HEARTBREAKERS™
VECTOR
STUMP
OF COURSE, GANYMEDE DOESN'T OFFER MUCH IN THE WAY OF DIVERSIONS, SO IT'S UP TO THE GALS TO MAKE THEIR OWN FUN.
ONE OFF-DUTY DELTA IN PARTICULAR IS FEELING A TAD...
...FRUSTRATED.
"My Lover... My CLONE!"
MMMPH
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
PANT PANT!
ANINA BENNETT -- DIRTY WORDS
PAUL GUINAN -- NAUGHTY PICTURES
ANDY MANSELS -- RESTRAINTS

I NEED A NICE, LONG, DEEP ORGASM IN THE WORST WAY--
--BUT I'VE BARELY BEEN ABLE TO TWITCH SINCE WE GOT HERE, LET ALONE SHUDDER WITH PLEASURE!
I NEED THAT RELEASE! THAT EXPLOSIVE DELIGHT! THAT SPASMODIC, BRAIN-MELTING BLISS!!
I NEED TO COME!! GRRRAH!!!
WHEW!
PERHAPS I SHOULD AUGMENT MY EFFORTS WITH A TOOL OF SOME KIND...
THAT LEVER HANDLE IN LAB TWO? NO, TOO STRAIGHT AND COLD. BRRR!
A CARROT FROM THE HYDRO GARDEN? HMM... I COULD ONLY USE IT ONCE, AND THEN I'D HAVE TO EAT IT. ICK!
I KNOW! I'LL ASK QUEENIE IF I MIGHT BORROW THAT DELUXE THROB-O-MATIC™ OF HERS!! YUM!
SHE MUSTVE HAD IT WITH HER WHEN WE LEFT EARTH--SHE USUALLY STOWED IT IN HER KIT BAG.
THOSE BETAS ARE ALWAYS READY FOR ACTION, IT SEEMS!
HUP! HUP!
I DO HOPE SHE WON'T MIND LENDING IT OUT.
QUEENIE, IT'S VECTOR. IS IT ALL RIGHT IF I...
CLICK!
QUEENIE
3

HUFF HUFF
OOH, YEAH...!
...COME IN...?!
SLAM!
HUFF
TH-THAT'S ONE KIND OF ACTION I HADN'T QUITE CONSIDERED!
QUEENIE
3
HEY, VECTOR!
C'MON BACK AND CHECK OUT THIS HARNESS--I MADE IT MYSELF!
HEART
HMPH!
DON'T THOSE DELTAS KNOW HOW T' KNOCA?!
GIT BACK DOWN HERE, QUEENIE!
MMMMM...
HATE
HEART
WHATTA WOMAN!

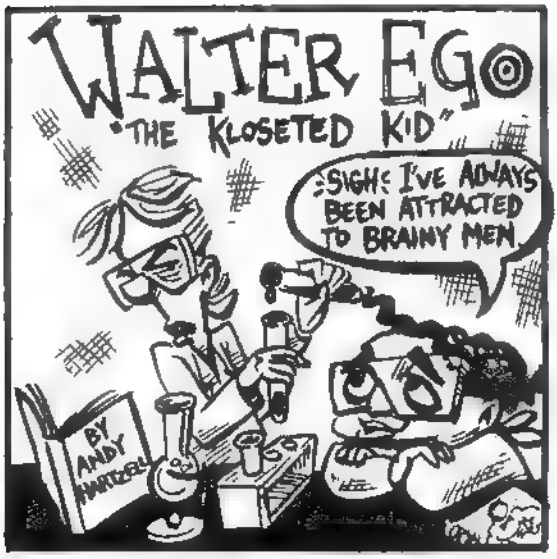
THERESE? PARDON THE INTERRUPTION, BUT COULD I SPEAK WITH YOU?
I'M IN NEED OF... ADVICE, I BELIEVE.
HM?
OH, VECTOR, YES, DO COME IN. YOU SOUND TROUBLED--IS THERE A PROBLEM IN LAB TWO?
NO, THIS IS PERSONAL.
I'M AFRAID I INTERRUPTED QUEENIE AND PEARL DURING A RATHER PASSIONATE MOMENT. I DOUBT I'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO EITHER OF THEM AFTER WHAT I SAW!
SURELY YOU'RE NOT SO OLD-FASHIONED AS TO BE HOMOPHOBIC?!
OF COURSE NOT! BUT IT DOES STRIKE ME AS INCESTUOUS SOMEHOW--LIKE TWO SISTERS HAVING SEX.
BUT THEY'RE CLONES, NOT SIBLINGS--I HARDLY THINK INCEST IS AN ACCURATE TERM. IN POINT OF FACT, THE INCEST TABOO AROSE OUT OF OUR EARLIEST, CRUDE UNDERSTANDING OF GENETICS, SINCE--
YES, YES, I KNOW ALL THAT. BUT IT WASN'T JUST... IT WAS THE WAY THEY WERE DOING IT, TOO. QUEENIE HAD THIS... UM, ACCESSORY STRAPPED ON, AND--
OH, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO DISCUSS THIS! I SHOULDN'T HAVE BOTHERED YOU WITH IT.
NO, I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO ME. I SELDOM FEEL COMFORTABLE GIVING PERSONAL ADVICE, BUT IN THIS CASE I BELIEVE I CAN HELP.
HUMAN SEXUALITY IS A COMPLEX BREW OF EMOTIONS AND PHYSICAL RESPONSES, VECTOR. EVEN WITHIN A SINGLE NATAL GROUP OF CLONES, EACH INDIVIDUAL MAY REACT TO DIFFERENT STIMULI THAN THE NEXT.

SOME OF YOUR "SISTERS" ENJOY POLYGAMOUS SEX, BONDAGE, AND OTHER FORMS OF LOVEPLAY.
SO LONG AS SUCH ACTIVITIES ARE CONSENSUAL AND NO ONE IS INJURED--PHYSICALLY OR PSYCHOLOGICALLY--I SEE NO HARM IN THEM, WHATEVER "FLOATS YOUR BOAT," AS THE BETAS WOULD SAY!
LATER.
NOK NOK!
THERESE IS RIGHT! AFTER ALL, FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS ONE OF THE CENTRAL TENETS OF THE CLONE-RIGHTS MOVEMENT! WHO AM I TO JUDGE?
I HOPE THEY'RE DONE IN THERE....
QUEENIE, IT'S VECTOR AGAIN. MAY I ENTER?
ONLY IF YA PROMISE NOT T' TURN TAIL AND BOLT AGAIN, GIRL!
I AIN'T THAT HARD ON THE EYES, AM I?
N-NO, QUITE THE OPPOSITE. I'M TERRIBLY SORRY IF I RUINED YOUR, UH, INTERLUDE EARLIER.
AW, DON'T SWEAT IT.
I HAD WANTED TO BORROW YOUR... BRR... ...YOUR VIBRATOR.
HEY, NO PROB! BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT A FLY SOLO?
I DON'T KNOW....

ARE YOU SURE PEARL WON'T MIND...?
NO WORRIES, HON--PEARL AND I ARE STRICTLY NON-EXCLUSIVE, IF YKNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YOU LAB RATS CAN BE SO UPTIGHT! WHY DON'TCHA UNCLENCH AND ENJOY YOURSELF FOR ONCE?
VERY WELL, IF YOU INSIST!
THAT'S TH' SPIRIT!
I THINK WE'LL START...
...WITH A NICE TONSUE-BATH!
?!!
THIS GUY BITES
CUT
SSS

WHOA!!!
TH-THIS IS TOO MUCH--I WAS ONLY SEEKING A ONE-ON-ONE ENCOUNTER AT MOST!
WHUPS!
HEY!
ALTHOUGH... WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING DOWN THERE DOES FEEL AWFULLY... GOOD....
IN FACT... IT F-FEELS...
WOO!
GANGWAY, GIRLS-- I'M ORGY-BOUND!
INCOMING!!
HEADS UP!
DON'TCHA MEAN "HEADS DOWN"?
SMACK!!

AND THEY ALL LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
...OR DID THEY?!
TO FIND OUT, FOLLOW THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF QUEENIE AND VECTOR THIS AUGUST IN DNP #100 AND NEXT YEAR IN THEIR VERY OWN HEARTBREAKERS MINISERIES!
WHEEE! THE JOYS OF SELF-LOVE CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO THE JOYS OF CLONE-LOVE!
HEY, THAT TICKLES!
'IT'S S'POSED TO, YA DOPE!


WALTER EGO
"THE KLOSETED KID"
:SIGH: I'VE ADWAYS BEEN ATTRACTED TO BRAINY MEN
BY ANDY MARTZELL

BOGIE--I SAID YOU COULD BE MY LAB PARTNER ON ONE CONDITION--THAT YOU SIT THERE QUIETLY WHILE I PERFORM THE EXPERIMENT.
YES, PROFESSOR.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

I'M SIMPLY MIXING THIS PHENOLPHTALEIN WITH--
YOU CAN'T MIX MAGENTA WITH TAUPE!

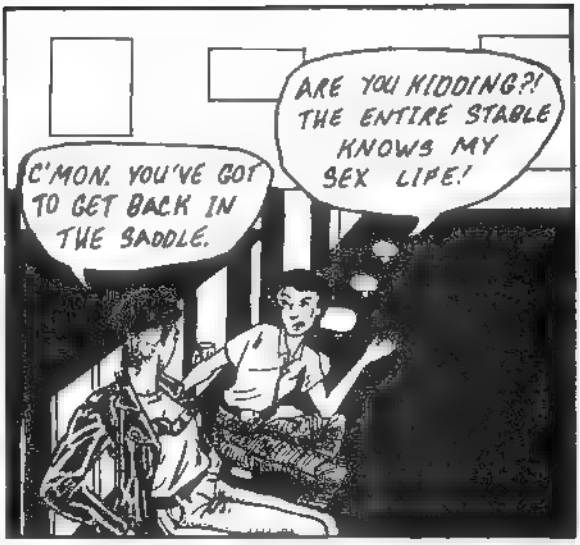
OH FOR GOD'S SAKE!
MAGENTA IS A SUMMER COLOR. OBVIOUSLY THE MAGENTA GOES WITH THE PARROT GREEN.

GIMME MY BEEKER!
IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT. YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

I'M JUST FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS.
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM. YOU FOLLOW DIRECTIONS. YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS.
IF YOU LISTENED TO YOUR INSTINCTS YOU MIGHT REALIZE "WHY, YES! BOGIE'S WAY IS BETTER!"
BANG!
THAT'S FUNNY. I ALWAYS THOUGHT MAGENTA WENT SO WELL WITH PARROT GREEN.
END

"I Heard It Through The Grapevine"
BLUE WHALE INN
Mon - Comedy
Tue - Boy's Nite
Wed - Floor Show
Thu - Requests
Fri - Alternative
Sat - Hot Dance
Sun - Country
©Stephanie H. Pennington 1994
PRIDE
UNITY
HEY NICKY. WHAT'S UP?
NOTHING ROBIN.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I HEARD.
OH?
I HEARD YOU BROKE UP WITH MARCI.
WHAT?!
ACTUALLY I HEARD SHE DUMPED YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR k.d. lang OBSESSION
HOW THAT? WE ONLY BROKE UP 15 MINUTES AGO!

THE GRAPEVINE WORKS PRETTY FAST AROUND HERE.
WELL THAT'S IT. NO MORE RELATIONSHIPS FOR ME.


C'MON. YOU'VE GOT TO GET BACK IN THE SADDLE.
ARE YOU KIDDING?! THE ENTIRE STABLE KNOWS MY SEX LIFE!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
IF ONLY SOMEONE NEW WOULD SHOW UP.
DYKE

WHO WAS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW.

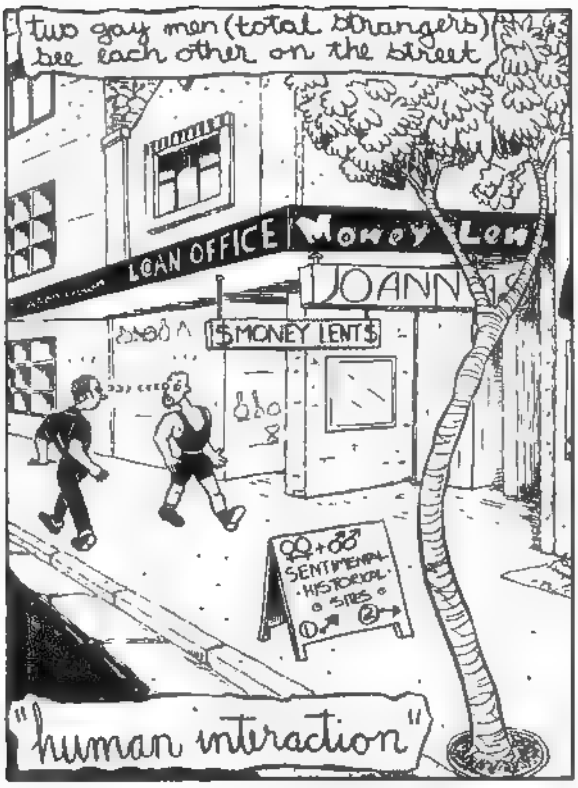
YOU DON'T?
NO.

SHE MUST BE NEW THEN.
GREAT TATTOOS. THEY MUST HAVE REALLY HURT... heh...
I MEAN, uh... HI. I'M NICKY. ARE YOU NEW?
HI. AND YES, I JUST GOT INTO TOWN. ALEX.
YOU'RE NAME'S NICKY? DIDN'T YOU JUST BREAK UP WITH A GIRL NAMED MARCI?

JON MACY
SUPER GENIUS
IN
PERSONAL-ADVENTURING
FOR MONTHS I HAD NIGHTMARES ABOUT INSECTS COMING OUT OF ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
I'D WAKE UP STANDING ON MY BED WITH A CAN OF RAID IN MY HAND.
ROGER HAD THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE WILDEST FIRST DATE EVEN THE CABBIE WAS IMPRESSED
I'M PAYING BAIL
HE'S MY DATE I'M PAYING BAIL!
HEY YOU WANT ME TO STICK AROUND?
I SOUGHT OUT MY FRIEND WHO KNOWS ABOUT THESE THINGS.
BURN SAGE
DEVILBOY DION'T LIKE TO ADMIT WHAT HE WANTED. HE JUST WANTED
MORE!
SOON I WAS GETTING THESE DARK CIRCLES UNDER MY EYES
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO LOOK LIKE THIS
RODNEY WAS MY ONE TRUE LOVE OF COURSE HE WAS EVERYONE'S ONE TRUE LOVE.
MINE!

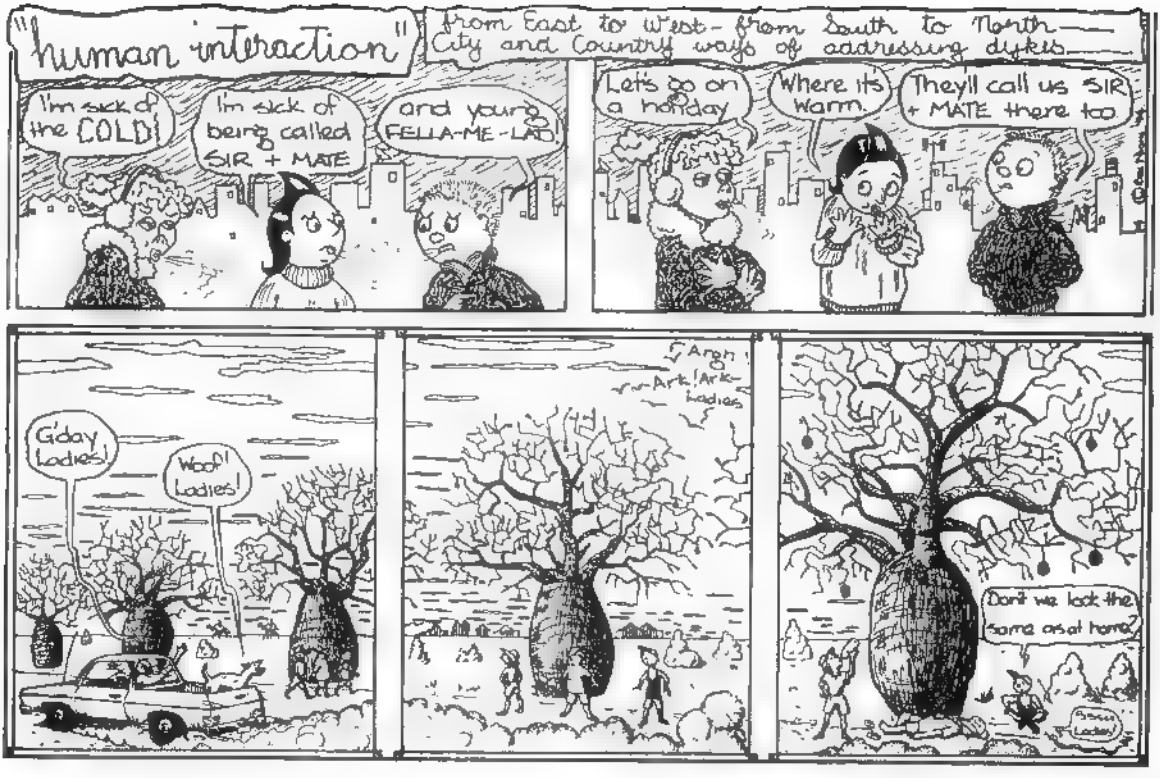
I TOOK LONG BATHS AND DRANK ALOT BUT STILL I COULDN'T GET TO SLEEP SO I ANSWERED ADS.
MY PHONE BILL IS CHEAPER THAN A THERAPIST
HAROLD WAS SO GOOD HE LEFT NO ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT.
SO YOU WANT IT ON THE FLOOR DO YOU?
HELP!
EVERY NIGHT FIERCE CLOUDS OF ELECTRICAL GNATS STORMED OUT OF HEATER VENTS AND TOASTERS.
MAYBE A THERAPIST WOULD BE CHEAPER.
PHONE BILL
PETER LOVED TO BE TORTURED BUT I GOT MORE OF A KICK OUT OF TORTURING MYSELF.
ISN'T IT BEAUUUTIFUL?
S-SURE!
MEEOW! BANG SCREECH
I JUST STAYED UP ALL NIGHT READING THE PERSONALS
I FEEL LIKE I KNOW THIS ONE ALREADY!
GIL WAS A MEAN ONE AND THOUGHT HE COULD BUY ME.
LET ME FUCK YOU AGAIN.
FUCK YOU!
IT SOON GOT TO THE POINT WHERE MY LIFE REVOLVED AROUND THE PERSONALS
OH, BOY, IT'S THURSDAY!
BUT WHEN I WOKE UP WITH HIM. CONSTRUED I REALIZED SOMETHING HAD TO CHANGE.
YOU'RE GOING TO CALL ME AREN'T YOU? AREN'T YOU?!
S-SURE!
NOTHING ELSE SEEMED TO MATTER EXCEPT THOSE TINY LITTLE EMOTIONAL POLAROIDS FUNNY THING IS I WASN'T EVEN CALLING THEM ANYMORE.
THIS ONE IS PERFECT!

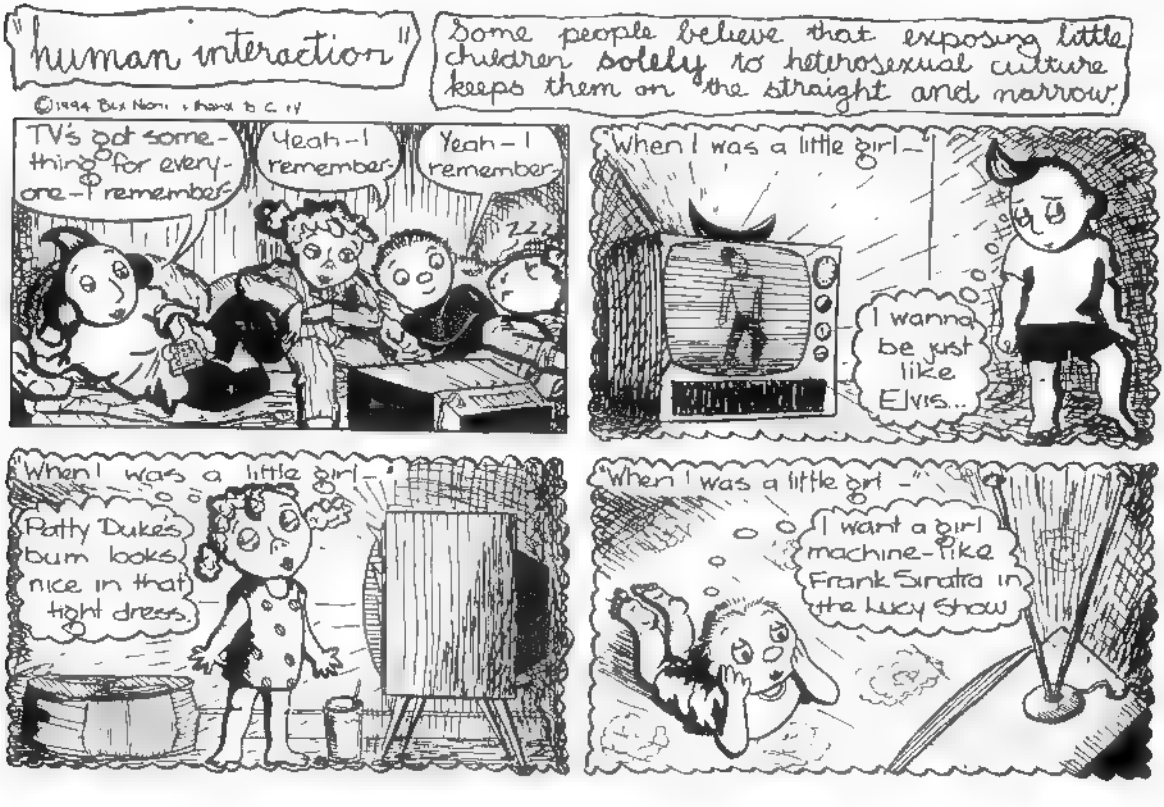
PAUL LOOKED AND ACTED LIKE A POLITICIAN, BUT HE WAS A STEP UP I THOUGHT.
WOW, HE HAS ALL HIS TEETH AND EVERYTHING
I KEPT SAYING TO MYSELF THE PERSONALS WERE FOR THE TRULY DESPERATE
THIS ONE LOOKS GOOD
THE PRINCESS AND I NEVER DID DO ANYTHING.
AND NEVER UP THE BUTT AND NEVER ON THURSDAYS AND I NEVER TAKE OFF MY MAKE UP FOR ANYONE!
ONE DAY I FOUND MYSELF BACK ON THE PHONE LEAVING MESSAGES BUT I DIDN'T REALLY WANT TO GO OUT WITH ANY OF THEM ANYMORE
AND I DRAW COMICS
I STOPPED SLEEPING AROUND BUT THAT ONLY MADE ME EVEN MORE RABID ABOUT THE PAPER.
THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THEM HUNDREDS!!
I STARTED ONLY REPLYING BY LETTER THAT SEEMED TO WEED OUT THE WEAK ONES.
"I LIKE TO EAT"
WOW, WE HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON
I THOUGHT JOEL WAS IT, BUT WE BOTH COULD NEVER LIVE UP TO OUR LETTERS. SO MUCH FOR THE PERSONALS,
AND I DON'T LIKE ADVERTISING BECAUSE IT'S TALKING PEOPLE INTO WHAT THEY ALREADY WANT
SORT OF WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE!
MY FRIENDS TOLD ME TO THROW MYSELF INTO MY WORK.
AT LEAST YOU DON'T HAVE BLACK CIRCLES UNDER YOUR EYES
YEAH, NOW THEY'RE BLOOD-SHOT
FINALLY, I WENT OUT TO DO MY LAUNDRY AND CAME HOME WITH KEVIN
IT'S BEEN A YEAR NOW
END

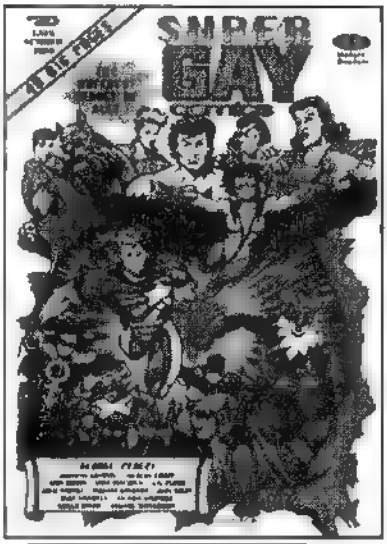

two gay men (total strangers) see each other on the street
LOAN OFFICE
MONEY LOW
JOANN'S
$MONEY LENT$
SENTIMENTAL HISTORICAL SITES
"human interaction"

two lesbians (total strangers) see each other on the street.
©1994 Bex Nemi

"human interaction"
at the doctor's
How long since you had a pap smear?
About... ten years?
What sort of contraception do you use?
Here we go again
None—I'm a lesbian
Oooka
...um...
So — What do you think of — Madonna?
Why's she asking me THAT? And WHY's she leaning on my KNEE? Maybe she's COMING ON to me? Maybe she's an AWKWARD HET acting 'casual'? Anyway it's not very DOCTORLY
©1994 Bex Nemi


"human interaction"
From East to West - from South to North — City and Country ways of addressing dykes.
I'm sick of the COLD!
I'm sick of being called SIR + MATE
and yours FELLA-ME-LAD!
Let's go on a holiday
Where it's warm.
They'll call us SIR + MATE there too
G'day Ladies!
Woof! Ladies!
Argh! Ark! Ark! Ladies
Don't we look the same as at home?


"human interaction"
Some people believe that exposing little children solely to heterosexual culture keeps them on the straight and narrow.
©1994 Bex Nori + thanks to C. Ivy
TV's got something for everyone - I remember.
Yeah - I remember.
Yeah - I remember.
"When I was a little girl -"
I wanna be just like Elvis...
"When I was a little girl -"
Patty Dukes bum looks nice in that tight dress.
"When I was a little girl -"
I want a girl machine - like Frank Sinatra in the Lucy Show



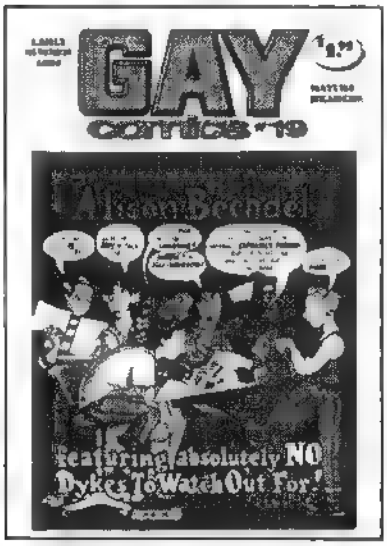
GAY comics BACK ISSUES

George Perez,
Jennifer Camper, Malachy Covey, Sean Doran, Kurt Erichsen, J.A. Fludd, Julie Franki, Roberta Gregory, Robert Kirby, Stephen Lowther, Andy Mangels, Chela Smith, Howard Stangroom

IT'S MORE THAN A *LIFESTYLE*... IT'S AN ATTITUDE!

Best Anthology of 1993!

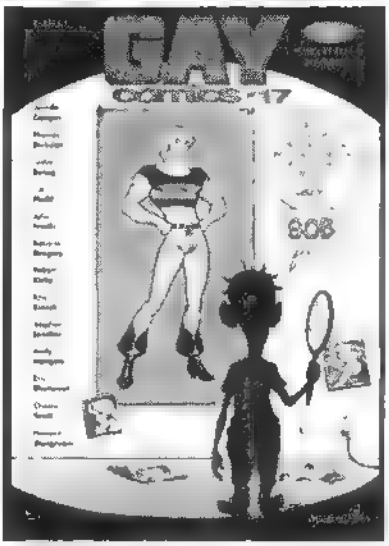
-Comic Creators Guild Awards
50% WOMEN - 50% MEN
40 pages each!



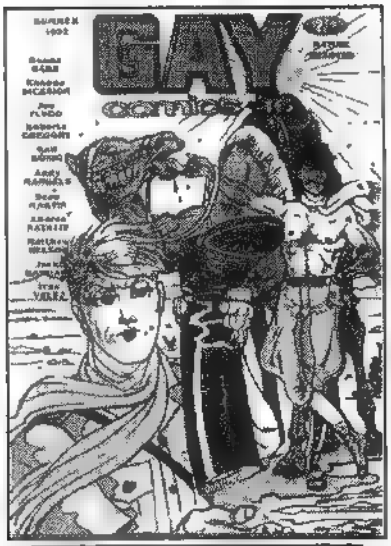
Allison Bechdel
Creator of four best-selling ***Dykes To Watch Out For*** books, presents 40 pages of **all-new** material!

"Coming Out Story"
"Power Of Prayer"
"True Confessions"
"Servants To The Cause"

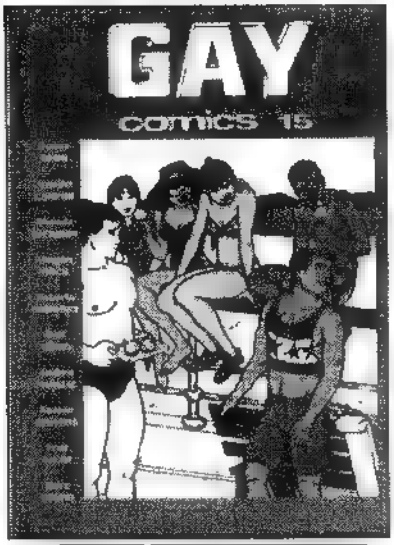
Ivan Velez Jr.
Julia Lacquement
Craig Hamilton
Tony Harris
J.A. Fludd, Julie Franki, Leanne Franson, Diana Green, Joan Hilty, J D. March, Sean Martin, Steve Matusczak, Andrea Natalie, Jackie Randall, Laura Rebecca, Linda Sue Weich, Dave Young



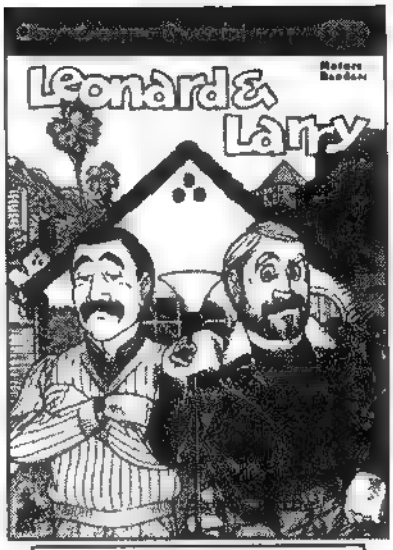
Eric Shanower
Roberta Gregory
Kris Kovick
Jennifer Camper, Rhonda Dickinson, Leslie Ewing, J.A. Fludd, Julie Frankie, Robert Kirby, Stephen Lowther, Andy mangels, Cheela Smith, Howard Stangroom



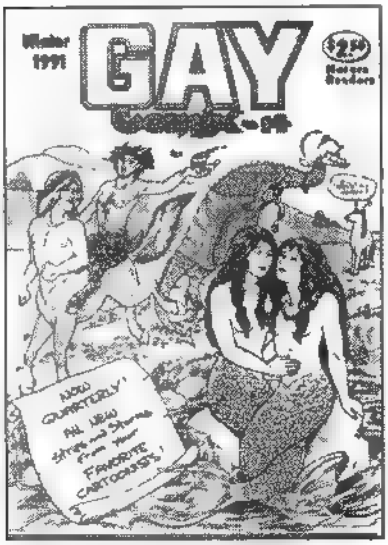
Donna Barr
Rhonda Dickinson, J.A. Fludd, Roberta Gregory, Ralf Konig, Andy Mangels, Sean Martin, Andrea Natalie, Matthew Nelson, Jacki Randall, Ivan Velez, Jr.



Donna Barr
Jennifer camper, Rhonda Dickinson, Vaughn Frick, Roberta Gregory, Ralf Konig, Andrea Natalie, Noreen Stevens, Ivan Velez, Jr., Dave Young



Tim Barela's hilarious and poignant ***"Leonard & Larry"*** is collected for the first time, with new material! This is the best-selling issue of **Gay Comix** ever!



Howard Cruse
Daerick Gross, Sr.
Tim Barela, Jennifer Camper, Leslie Ewing, Vaughn Frick, Michael Goldberg, Roberta Gregory, Joan Hilty, Ralf Konig, Stephen Lowther, Andy Mangels, J.D. March, Andrea Natalie, Jacki Randall, Stan Shaw, Howard Stangroom, Noreen Stevens, Dave Young

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___ **Gay Comics #19**	___ **Gay Comix #14**
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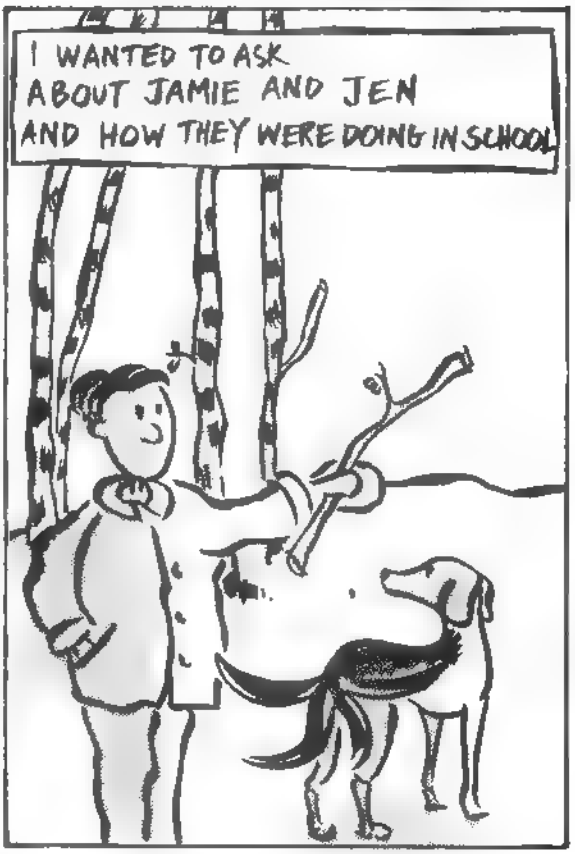
WANTED
BY CATHERINE DOHERTY
©1995

I WANTED TO PICK UP THE PHONE TO CALL MY MOTHER TO SEE WHAT WAS NEW.
WATERLOO BINGO
INK

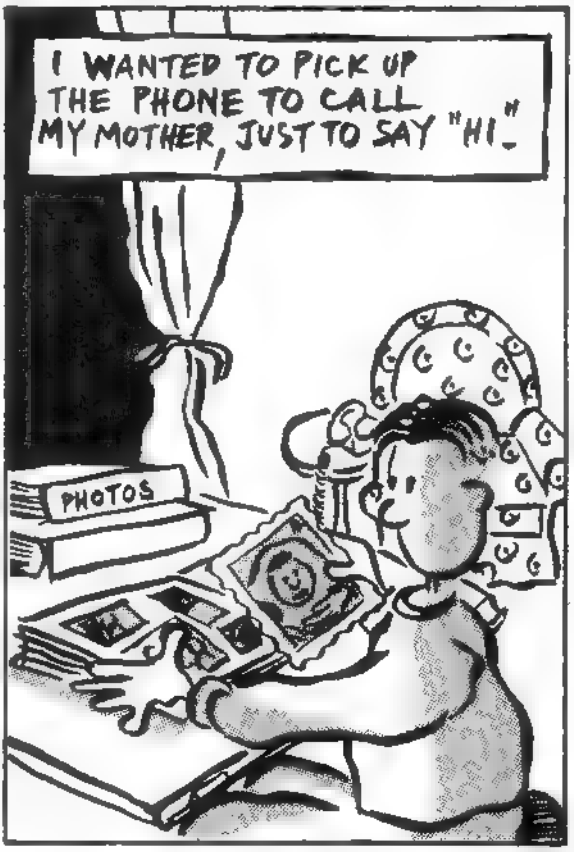
I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT NOTHING AT ALL, I WANTED TO HEAR HER VOICE TOO.
HOTHEAD PAISAN


I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT JAMIE AND JEN AND HOW THEY WERE DOING IN SCHOOL.

"IS JEN STILL WITH GREG? DOES SHE LIKE MONTREAL? AND DOES JAMIE STILL THINK HE CAN BEAT ME AT POOL?"

"HOW IS DAD DOING? DOES HE LIKE HIS NEW JOB? HAVE YOU MADE ANY FRIENDS IN D.C.?"

"IS THE HOUSE REALLY BIG? IN A NICE PART OF TOWN? AND DOES DUSTY STILL HOWL AT THE DOGS ON T.V.?"


I WANTED TO PICK UP THE PHONE TO CALL MY MOTHER, JUST TO SAY "HI."
PHOTOS

I WANTED TO ASK HER
TO TELL ME THE TALE
OF THE TIME LONG BEFORE
THAT I FELL FROM THE SKY.

I WANTED TO HEAR
WHAT HER PARENTS HAD SAID
AND HOW THEY HAD TAUGHT HER
OF GUILT, FEAR AND SHAME.

I WANTED TO KNOW
HOW A GIRL OF NINETEEN
COULD LET GO OF HER CHILD
WITHOUT GOING INSANE.

I WANTED TO KNOW
HOW SHE'D COPED ALL THOSE YEARS
WONDERING WHERE I HAD GONE.

I WANTED TO KNOW
THAT THE DAY I SHOWED UP
WAS, FOR HER, THE FIRST DAY THAT
THE SUN EVER SHONE.
I WANTED TO PICK UP
THE PHONE TO SAY
"HI MOM, THOUGHT I'D GIVE YOU A BUZZ"
I'D HAVE DONE IT
BY NOW, A MILLION TIMES...
IF ONLY I KNEW WHO SHE WAS.

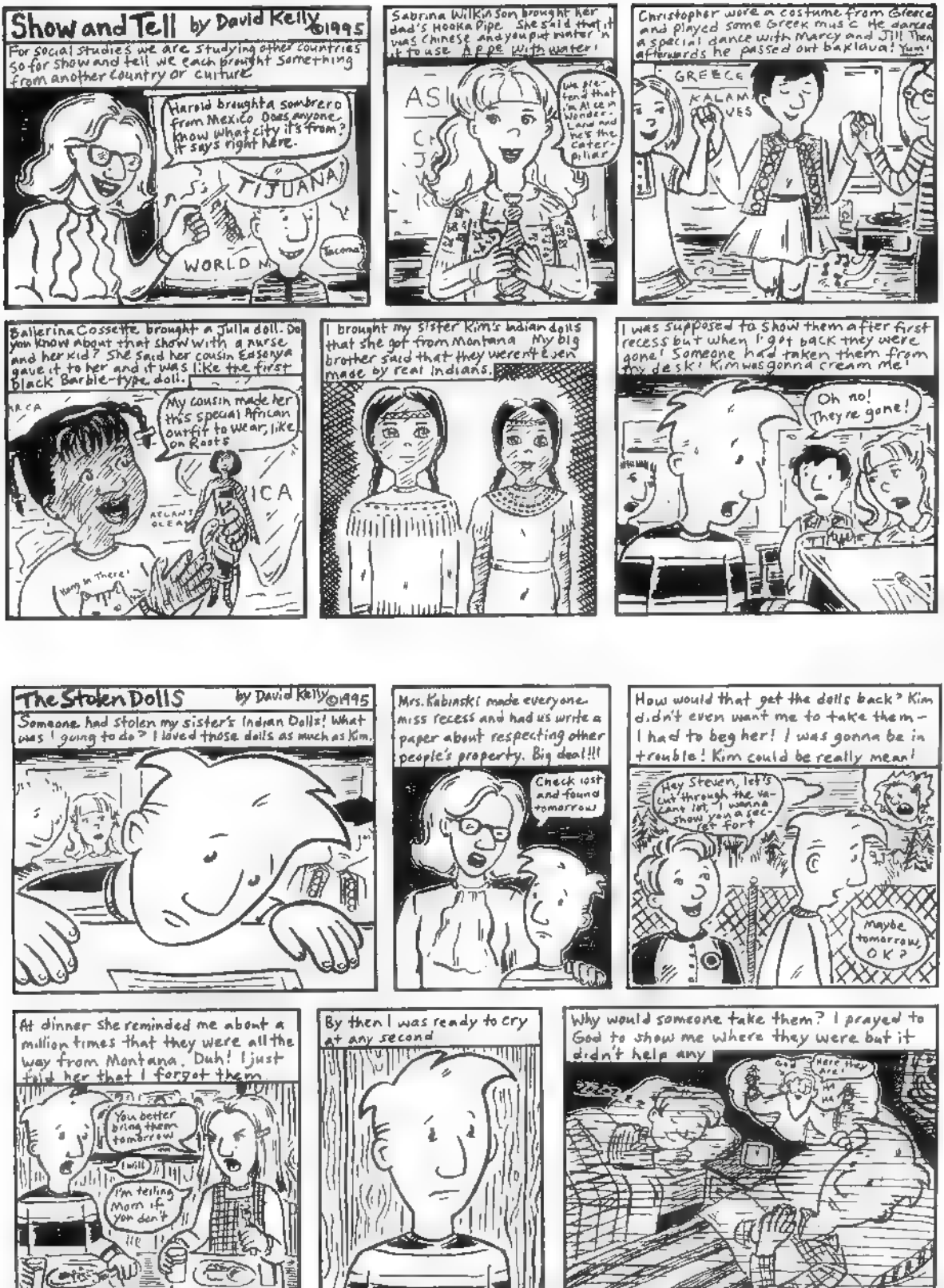
YOU'RE KIDDING?
NOPE. NOT UNLESS I WANT TO FACE A LAWSUIT, TRENT
DIETRON SAYS THAT THERE'S A CHANCE WE MIGHT WIN, BUT HE'S PRETTY MUCH EXHAUSTED EVERY ARGUMENT WITH THEM.
THEY SAY THAT MY USING THE NAME "SENTINEL" COULD "CONFUSE THE PUBLIC" ABOUT THEIR COMIC BOOK HERO, WHO APPARENTLY APPEARED DURING MY EARLY DAYS.
WHAT THEY MEAN IS THAT HAVING A FAR HERO WITH THE SAME NAME WILL KILL THEIR POTENTIAL SALES.
THAT'S SO STUPID FUCKING BIGOTS!
SO, YOU GONNA GO WITH THE OTHER NAME?
YEAH. NOT LIKE I'M GETTING A LOT OF LICENSEES FOR SENTINEL ACTION FIGURES OR MOVIE DEALS.
SO, AS OF TODAY, NO MORE SENTINEL.
FROM NOW ON, IT'S "PRIDE."
PRIDE
MISCONCEPTIONS
WRITTEN BY ANDY MANGELS
ILLUSTRATED BY J.A. FLUDD
LETTERED BY MAC PERFORMA

WELL, THE COMMUNITY'S GONNA LOVE IT, EXCEPT THEY'LL WANT YOU TO PUT "LESBIAN AND GAY" IN FRONT OF IT
I THINK IT SOUNDS KIND OF CORNY. IT'S LIKE A LAUNDRY DETERSENT OR SOMETHING.
HMMMPH. I GUESS A GUY FROM OKLAHOMA WOULD KNOW CORNY
HEY, EVEN US OKIES KNOW POLITICALLY CORRECT
NOT AS SOON AS I WILL
YOU BETTER GO GET READY. I'LL BE DONE SOON.
DOWN, BOY.
AFTER ALL, CREATING STYLISH CLOTHING IS ONE OF MY SUPER-POWERS.
OH, I BET SUPERMAN WOULD BE JEALOUS.
HEY, IT'S BETTER THAN SUPER-BREATH.
I CAN SEE WHAT'S GONNA BE HOLDING US UP
I SAID "DOWN, BOY."

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YOUR SISTER WANTS?
AMANDA HASN'T TOLD ME YET SHE AND DEL SAID THEY WANTED TO TALK TO BOTH OF US.
MAYBE THEY'RE PREGNANT!
RING DONG
OH, FAT CHANCE
TRENT! YOU'RE ALMOST ON TIME!
HOWDY BOYS!
WELL, SOMETHING CAME UP AT THE LAST MINUTE, MANDY
I BET I KNOW WHAT, TOO. AND DON'T CALL ME "MANDY"
HEY, DUSTYN. YOU TWO LOOK GREAT
GOOD TO SEE YOU, AMANDA.
COME SIT DOWN. FOOD'S ON
LASAGNA A'LA RICARDO COMIN' UP

THAT WAS *WONDERFUL*, DEL.
FROM THE WAY HE INHALED IT, YOU *KNOW* HE LIKED IT.
SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT?
WELL, IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO *DISCUSS*.
FRANKLY, WE'RE *REALLY* UNSURE HOW YOU'LL REACT.
FOR A *LONG* TIME NOW, WE'VE WANTED TO HAVE A *BABY*.
AMANDA HAS TALKED ABOUT IT SINCE OUR *FIRST* DATE
I TOLD HER *RIGHT AWAY*, IN CASE SHE WAS GONNA GET SCARED OFF.
WE TALKED ABOUT *ADOPTION*. THERE'S SO MANY UNWANTED CHILDREN AN' ALL.
BUT THERE'S SO MANY PROBLEMS WITH THE *LAWS* AND . .
I *KNOW* IT SOUNDS SELFISH, BUT I REALLY WANTED TO CARRY MY OWN BABY.
PROBLEM WAS, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE WHO WE WANTED TO BE THE *FATHER*.
TILL TRENT MET *YOU*.
WE'D LIKE *YOU* TO BE THE FATHER, DUSTYN.
WE *KNOW* THIS IS KIND OF SUDDEN, AND WE DON'T WANT YOUR ANSWER RIGHT AWAY
IT TOOK US A *LONG TIME* TO MAKE THIS DECISION, BUT WE THINK IT'S THE *RIGHT* ONE

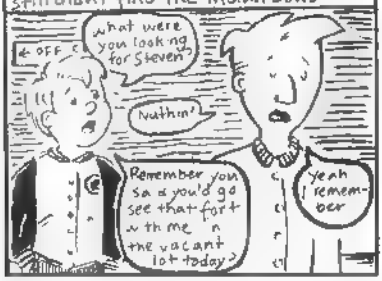
THANKS AGAIN. I'LL TALK TO YOU IN A FEW DAYS.
BYE, SIS. BYE, DEL
BE CAREFUL.
HEY, I'VE GOT "PRIDE." WHO NEEDS CAREFUL?
WHOAH! WAIT UP
I'M NOT AS FAST AS YOU
THEY REALLY FREAKED YOU OUT, HUH?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT
THAT'S NOT THE [redacted] 'EM!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE I CAN DO IT!
I'M NOT EVEN SURE I'M HUMAN ANY MORE.
WHAT?
WEEEEEOOOOOOOOWEEEEEOOO
SHIT WHAT NOW?
I'VE GOT TO GO. CAN YOU GET HOME OKAY?
I'LL GET A CAB JUST GO
AFTER ALL, I'M JUST YOUR LOVER.
"NOT EVEN SURE I'M HUMAN ANY MORE."
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF BOMB-SHELL WAS THAT TO DROP?"
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE


Show and Tell by David Kelly ©1995
For social studies we are studying other countries so for show and tell we each brought something from another country or culture
Harold brought a sombrero from Mexico. Does anyone know what city it's from? It says right here.
TIJUANA
Sabrina Wilkinson brought her dad's Hooka Pipe. She said that it was Chinese and you put water in it to use it. Ape with water!
I'm pretend that I'm Alice in Wonder-Land and he's the caterpillar
Christopher wore a costume from Greece and played some Greek music. He danced a special dance with Marcy and Jill. Then afterwards he passed out baklava! Yum!
GREECE
Ballerina Cossette brought a Julia doll. Do you know about that show with a nurse and her kid? She said her cousin Essenya gave it to her and it was like the first black Barbie-type doll.
My cousin made her this special African outfit to wear, like on Roots
Hang in there!
I brought my sister Kim's Indian dolls that she got from Montana. My big brother said that they weren't even made by real Indians.
I was supposed to show them after first recess but when I got back they were gone! Someone had taken them from my desk! Kim was gonna cream me!
Oh no! They're gone!
The Stolen Dolls by David Kelly ©1995
Someone had stolen my sister's Indian Dolls! What was I going to do? I loved those dolls as much as Kim.
Mrs. Kabinski made everyone miss recess and had us write a paper about respecting other people's property. Big deal!!!
Check lost and found tomorrow
How would that get the dolls back? Kim didn't even want me to take them — I had to beg her! I was gonna be in trouble! Kim could be really mean!
Hey Steven, let's cut through the vacant lot, I wanna show you a secret fort
Maybe tomorrow, OK?
At dinner she reminded me about a million times that they were all the way from Montana. Duh! I just told her that I forgot them.
You better bring them tomorrow
I will
I'm telling Mom if you don't
By then I was ready to cry at any second
Why would someone take them? I prayed to God to show me where they were but it didn't help any
God
Here they are!
In the

The Secret Fort

by David Kelly ©1995

I went to the Lost and Found in the office afterschool the next day but still didn't find the Indian dolls


what were you looking for Steven?
Nuthin'
Remember you said you'd go see that fort with me in the vacant lot today?
yeah I remember

The vacant lot was filled with two main things junk and stickers bushes The fort was at the very back corner near the woods. Then I saw it, one of the dolls

The boy Indian doll was laying on the ground with a bunch of candy wrappers. He was all bashed up

We went inside and Tim found a metal box with a bunch of weird stuff in it. There was even a dirty magazine and beer!

I found the other doll standing on an old stump with grape and orange Sunny Jim soda cans all around it. Lilacs surrounded her

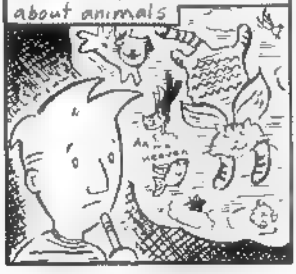
She was missing her beads but she wasn't beaten up

The Saddest Thing

by David Kelly ©1995

At school, we were supposed to write about something sad. I was sad that someone stole the dolls from me and ripped them up. I hid them in a Hushpuppies shoebox

The only sad thing I could think of was when our cat ranaway. Brad Rogers said it was stupid to be sad about animals



Sabrina Wilkinson told me that she wrote about when her Granapa Joe died That's when we saw Mrs Kabinski with Travis Wise

Then I did remember. His mom was sick for a long time She didn't even drive in the carpool anymore Then, Mrs White drove one day and told us Mrs Wise was with the Lord. I wasn't really sure if that meant dead or not

I felt really sorry for Travis. I was even afraid to look at him I had to stop 'cause I felt like I might start to cry, too

When I got up to leave, I looked back at Travis one more time. That's when I saw he had the beads from the Indian dolls in his hands

Travis Wise

by David Kelly ©1995

I thought about Travis Wise for the rest of the day. I wonder what it would be like to not have a mom. I didn't even care that he was the one that stole the Indian dolls from me.

When my mom got home from work I asked her about Mrs. Wise and all she said was that since Mrs. Wise died her boys have been running wild.

She said that she sees the dad's El Camino at the Marina tavern almost everyday. So then, who takes care of them? Who makes their lunches and gets them ready for school?

Whenever you ride your bike by their house you never know what to expect. Sometimes they are nice and give you homemade beef jerky and pepperoni. One time, Travis gave me an album for my birthday.

Then other times, they are the meanest kids I know. One time, they tried to crash into me and George with their bikes in the woods.

I kept on thinking what would happen if my mom died. Who would take care of us? Do you know if the mom's become the kid's guardian angels, or something like that, to watch over them?

The Car Show

by David Kai ©1995

Christopher asked me if I wanted to go to the car show because Darth Vader was there, signing autographs. His sister came to see Leif Garrett.

Athena's room has posters all over of him and other guys from Tiger Beat and Sixteen. One time we laid on Athena's bed looking at all of them.

The line to see Darth Vader was really long. I saw Travis Wise go by with his dad and brothers but pretended I didn't see them.

*Greek for "Dad"

After being in line for a really, really long time Travis walked by and saw us. At first, he was kinda being mean to us but then started to be nice. I never thought Travis would want to see Darth Vader.

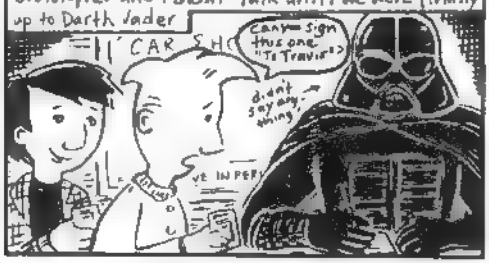
He told us about a hot rod he saw at the show. He was getting excited talking about it.

That's when all of a sudden his dad came and grabbed his hair and started hitting him really hard. He dragged Travis away, never letting go of him the whole time.

Darth Vader

by David Kelly ©1995

I wanted to say something. Mr. Wise dragged Travis away screaming, but nobody said anything Christopher and I didn't talk until we were finally up to Darth Vader



You know how you can tell that some people have mean parents? Well, I could tell Travis had a mean dad Maybe kids like Travis don't start out as mean but end up that way because of their parents

Not everyone has a mean dad. At least Christopher's dad takes them places and does stuff with them My dad never did stuff like that with us. Now, we don't even see him at all since he moved to Nevada.

My mom says he's good for nothing She says he doesn't send the money he's supposed to I think she wants me to hate him like she does

I guess I do hate him, in a way, but in a way, I hate her, too Why did they get married and have kids if they were just going to fight all of the time?

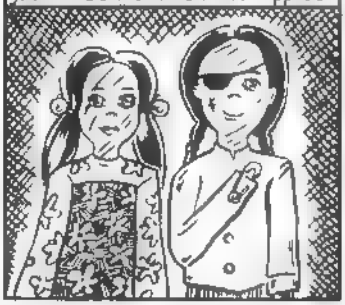
How come some kids get good parents and others don't? Sometimes, I think it would be better to have no parents at all than to have a mean dad and a mean mom

SORRY...

by David Kelly ©1995

Tim blabbed to Kim about the Indian dolls being under my bed in the shoe box She started to cry when she saw how ripped up they were.

I tried to fix them up by putting new Barbie clothes on them but it just made them look like hopes

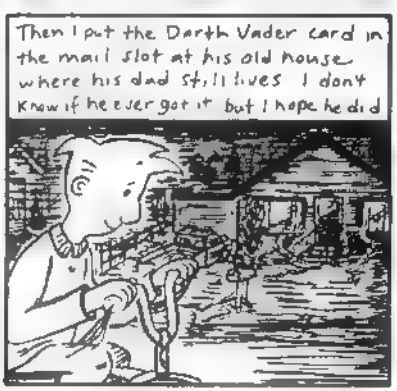


Nobody really wanted them now. I even felt bad about taking them from Travis' fort. I hadn't seen Travis since his dad grabbed him at the car show

He wasn't at school all of that week Did something happen to him and no one told us? Mrs Kabiask said Travis and his brothers were staying with relatives

I went back to the secret fort the next day with the girl Indian doll I set her back where I had found her, this time the lilacs were dead.

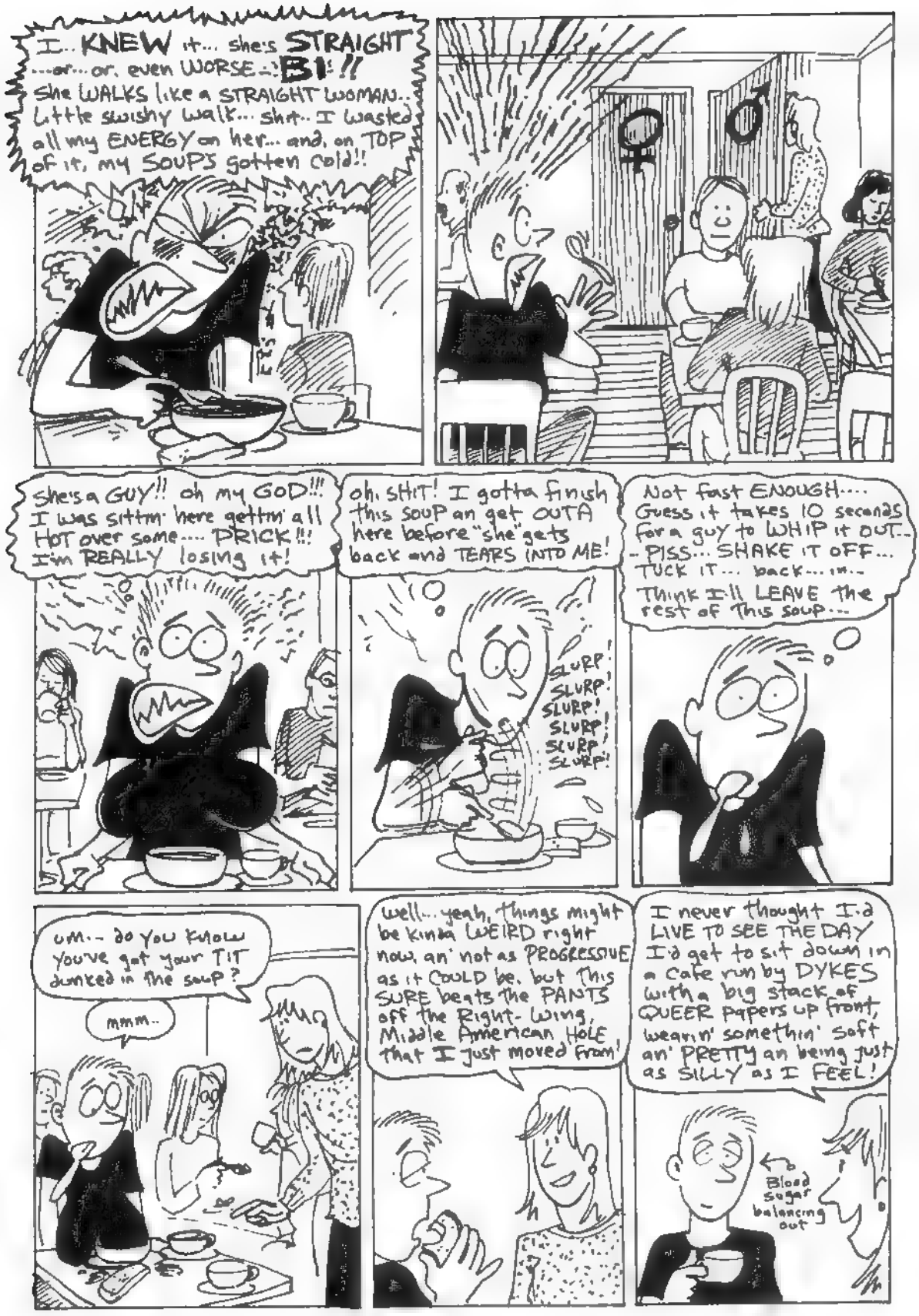
Then I put the Darth Vader card in the mail slot at his old house where his dad still lives I don't know if he ever got it but I hope he did



BITCHY BUTCH
Meets
A NICE GUY!
I HATE HETEROS! I HATE REPUBLICANS! I HATE THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT! I HATE MEN! I HATE BISEXUALS! I HATE DEMOCRATS! I HATE STRAIGHT WOMAN! I HATE FEMMEY LESBIANS! I HATE DRAG QUEENS! I HATE TEENAGE GIRLS! I HATE
YOU COULD say BITCHY BUTCH is a slave to her APPETITE...
Whatts the USE? It's a HET WORLD... it always WILL be... I'm DOOMED to be DEFEATED by.. THEM! I GIVE UP! Maybe I should NEVER have been BORN in the FIRST place.. Want to go
WAIT-A-MINUTE... It's past THREE and I haven't had LUNCH yet! Maybe I'd feel better if I ATE something. Crank up the ol' BLOOD SUGAR...
YEAH... RIGHT... spend my hard-earned SLAVE WAGES at THIS Megachain!!! Aren't THESE the people who give their profits to the Christian Coalition..? -Or, is it the RIGHT-TO-LIFERS... ..wonder if...
BURGER GIANT
DRIVE THRU
I remember THIS place... I'd MUCH rather spend my Dyke Dollars HERE! At least SOME of these Dyke Businesses from the 70's have managed to survive!
Shit... bet the PRICES just went up 'cause it's after 3...
Cafe Diana

SURVIVE? The place is PACKED, and the prices went WAY up! I used to get soup an' bread for a BUCK! Now it's THREE-FIFTY! Bet it's not as GOOD, either!
Looks like maybe there's a few dykes workin' here... Hard to TELL nowadays with all these Little --FEMME-OIDS!
Looks like this place has gotten TRENDY...and it's FULL of HETS! shit... 20 years ago, they'd've been kicked out on their ASSES...
Cafe
There's even a MEN'S room now!! Never thought I'd LIVE to see the DAY! shit.. These stupid HETS have every other place in the CITY to go to, but I guess it's more of a THRILL for em to invade our Precious DYKE SPACE...
.....
SHE'S cute... young... proud... ...dykey...
BOOK
um...m...m...M-MIND IF I .....SHARE your TABLE? uhh-h.. it's sorta.. sorta CROWDED in here! ...uh...
Have a seat!
uh.. This place sure has CHANGED! Twenty years ago it was run by a COLLECTIVE, and you could pretty much be sure to see nothin' but DYKES here!
oh.. I'd never know.. I've only been in this city a few months!

Well, the Cafe Diana Collective is only the TIP of the ICEBERG! Let me show you just a TINY BIT of over 25 YEARS of glorious DYKE HERITAGE!
COMICS!
DYKE COMICS
HOMEBOD MAG
MAGAZINES!
NEWSPAPERS!
BOOKS!
LESBIAN TIDE
GALLERIES!
CATALOGS!
CONFERENCES!
BOOK STORES!
LAVENDER JANE
OLIVIA
SISTER BOOKSTORE
GODDESS CIRCLES!
CONCERTS! RECORD COMPANIES! WOMEN-ONLY SPACES! RADIO COLLECTIVES! DANCES!
WOMENS CENTERS
Jewelry!
WOMENS LAND TRUSTS!
Moo!
RESTAURANTS! DYKE MECHANICS! DYKE CARPENTERS!
CLEARING THE WAY, so our SISTERS TO COME would have just a bit LESS work to do!
BABY DYKES
AND WE DID IT ALL WITHOUT THE HELP OF ANY STUPID MEN! They KNEW IF they brought their PRICKS anywhere NEAR a women-only event, somebody'd ..... SHOOT IT OFF!!!
What IS this? She's just sitting there looking all squirmy! These STUPID BRATS are ALL ALIKE. don't appreciate a THING we did for 'em! They got it SO DARN EASY compared to what WE had to go Through!
uh-oh! Too much caffeine on an empty stomach!
Hey, there's no need to go dissin' DICKS, now! This world would be a MUCH duller place WITHOUT 'em!
uh... 'scuze me while I trot off to the- PEE-SWAH! That coffee just went right THROUGH me..
mm hm..


I... KNEW it... she's STRAIGHT ...or... or, even WORSE:: BI!!
She WALKS like a STRAIGHT WOMAN.. Little swishy walk... shit.. I wasted all my ENERGY on her... and, on TOP of it, my SOUP'S gotten cold!!
She's a GUY!! oh my GOD!!! I was sittin' here gettin' all HOT over some.... PRICK!!! I'm REALLY losing it!
oh, SHIT! I gotta finish this SOUP an get OUTA here before "she" gets back and TEARS INTO ME!
SLURP! SLURP! SLURP! SLURP! SLURP SLURP!
Not fast ENOUGH.... Guess it takes 10 seconds for a guy to WHIP it OUT.. - PISS... SHAKE IT OFF... TUCK IT... back... in..
Think I'll LEAVE the rest of this soup...
um.. do you know you've got your TIT dunked in the soup?
mmm..
Well... yeah, things might be kinda WEIRD right now, an' not as PROGRESSIVE as it COULD be, but this SURE beats the PANTS off the Right-Wing, Middle American HOLE that I just moved from!
I never thought I'd LIVE TO SEE THE DAY I'd get to sit down in a cafe run by DYKES with a big stack of QUEER papers up front, wearin' somethin' soft an' PRETTY an being just as SILLY as I FEEL!
Blood sugar balancing out

I guess there's a WHOLE lot to get angry about, an' there's a better REASON for gettin' upset, an' it's GOOD to get it outa your SYSTEM when you need to...
But, sometimes I think you just gotta let GO of it an' be REALISTIC about what you can get done, and what you just gotta let SLIDE!
Take a GOOD LOOK, folks. This is as MELLOW as she GETS!
uh.. I hope you didn't get TOO offended by what I said about MEN..
Hey, you should have heard all the really HORRIBLE Things I grew up hearin' about "HOMOS"..
I never thought I'd... LIVE TO SEE THE DAY I could just kick back in a... QUEER CAFÉ!
uh huh...
Well, HUL-LO, MARK! It Took your SWEET TIME, I see!
sorry, Jeff.. I'm double-parked out front!
O-KAY-X! CUM-ming
Too bad I gotta run OFF... It's been REAL nice chattin' with you... Hope I'll bump into you AGAIN here real soon! I hang out here a LOT, now!
uh huh... ..bye!
Ik
Uh!
©1995 ROBERTA GREGORY
SIGH! Think our "BUTCHY" will EVER CHANGE?

QUEER SIR . . .

Given the one-and-a-half year gap between the last two issues and this one, you'd think our letterbag would be bulging. However, we got no letters about issue #21 and only two about #22! What's up, people? Let's get some letters, so we won't have a perpetually empty lettercol.

Hey Andy,
I've been meaning to write to ***Gay Comics*** *for a while. I'm a 25-year old lesbian who just got into comics via a (now ex-) girlfriend. She introduced me to* Blood Syndicate *and the rest of the Milestone titles. I recently ran into* ***Gay Comics*** *#20 and 21. I really liked the super-hero issue, because that's my style of comic. My favorite was Major Power & Spunky, because it combined humor, sex, cool costumes, excellent illustrations, and a silly story. Gravity Babe & Cerebral Gal were a close second.*
Merce Elahi
Portland, OR

Welcome to the world of comics, and I hope the revived ***Gay Comics*** will be a big part of that world for you in the future. You also had several questions about breaking in to comics, which I will address in this column and next issue.

Dear Andy,
I have just a couple of quick questions. #1: Are there any gay anthropomorphic/funny animal comics out on the market, and if so, how can I get them? #2: How can I contact Howard Stangroom and Stephen Lowther? Gotta run. Do another funny animals issue soon.
L. Videen
Minneapolis, MN

The only all-gay anthropomorphic comic I know of is from Minotaur (see below), although there has been gay "furry" scenes in MU's *Wild Kingdom* and the *Meatmen* series. And, of course, there's *Omaha* and *Shanda The Panda*, both of which had short crossover stories in issue #22. And you can write to any of the ***Gay Comics*** cartoonists by following these instructions: Put your letter to them in a **stamped** envelope, with their name pencilled on the outside. Put that envelope in another one, addressed to me. I'll forward it from here!

Most of the letters I get are from people looking to break into comics — ***Gay Comics*** being their most obvious choice. I will be touching on this more next issue, but here are a few pointers.

#1 – Editors have a lot more writers contacting them than artists. I have about 20 creators who want to write gay/lesbian super-heroes, with no artists. Unfortunately, I can't run referrals on all of them, nor can we publish this many gay heroes.

If you write, try to find an artist to work with. Advertise in *Comic Buyers Guide* or on the internet, or join one of the gay APAs or fan clubs we've run referrals for in the past.

#2 – Anthology books like this rarely carry many continued strips. Characters can continue, but the best proposals are for short self-contained stories that have a beginning, middle, and end. The best size story is 3-5 pages. We don't publish **anyone** more than a few issues in a row, and theme issues often get in the way of continued stories.

#3 – Pay attention to the rules. As it says in the editorial, always include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope and your phone number. I respond by phone much, **much** faster than by letter.

#4 – Send photocopies only. Never send originals. And never send anything other than what you consider to be your best.

#5 – Realize that if an editor rejects your work, they are not rejecting you. Your story may not fit the theme, or be too close to another story, or may not be to the editor's taste, or may not be professional enough. Keep working, and submit later.

#6 – Check out two excellent books by Lurene Haines. If your local store doesn't have them, special order them. They are *Getting Into The Business Of Comics* (ISBN #0-941613-60-7) and *A Writer's Guide To The Business Of Comics* (ISBN #0941613-62-3). Invaluable sources both.

PLUGS

SAVAGE LOVE
Dan Savage's hilarious anthology of queer comics. Two issues available from Bear Bones Press, PO Box 45432, Seattle, WA 98105-0432.

GO-GO BOY
Gay-superhero comic with two issues, ashcan, and t-shirt available. Contact Mermaid Publication, PO Box 91976, West Vancouver, BC, CAN V7V 4S4 or call (604) 926-8956.

RUDE GIRLS & DANGEROUS WOMEN
Collected cartoons by ***Gay Comics'*** favorite bad girl herself, Jennifer Camper. From Laugh Lines Press, ISBN #0-9632526-5-8.

MINOTAUR COMICS
Anthropomorphic adults-only all-male gay comics. *Spike* graphic novel and *Labyrinth* comic available from Minotaur Comics, 3656 N. Lakewood Ave., Chicago, IL 60613-3725

PLUGS

CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Guinan and **Anina Bennett** are the husband and wife team who created the *Heartbreakers* series, which has appeared in various issues of *Dark Horse Presents*. Paul has illustrated books ranging from *Aliens* and *Terminator* to *Urban Legends* and *Big Book of Conspiracies*, while Anina has edited books for Disney, First, and Dark Horse. A *Heartbreakers* series is set to start in April of 1996, from Dark Horse. This is their *Gay Comics* premiere.

Andy Hartzell is proud of his status as the Token Gay Cartoonist from the Southwest. He has self-published several books, including a collection of "Walter Ego" strips, and has been a frequent contributor to *Duplex Planet* and *Don't Shoot, It's Only Comix*. Keep an eye out for his newest title, the Xeric-Award-winning *Bread & Circuses*. You can reach him at 3814 E. Cherokee, Las Vegas, NV 89121. This is his *Gay Comics* premiere.

Stephanie Pennington is a San Franciscan currently living in Augsburg, Germany, which doesn't have any good Mexican restaurants. As a child, she could never decide who she more desperately wanted to be: Mr. Steed or Ms. Peel. This is her *Gay Comics* premiere.

Jon Macy is best known for his underground comic book series, *Tropo*. He is now a full-time pornographer doing hardcore gay sex comics for such illustrious magazines as *Meatmen*, *Wilde*, and *Steam*. He is the set designer for the *Nesting Dolls* dance company, and in true renaissance style, he is the personal pornographer to a secret diaper fetishist. Please look for his "gender bending" comic book series *Nefarismo*, published by the thoroughly debauched Eros Comix. This is his *Gay Comics* premiere.

Beck Main is an Australian cartoonist whose work recently appeared in *Dyke Strippers* from Cleis Press. She used to edit *Drawing Away*, an Australian anthology of women's comics, and has contributed to *Lesbians On The Loose* in Sydney. This is her *Gay Comics* premiere.

Catherine Doherty is a 30 year-old rookie writer/ illustrator who lives in Toronto with her true love, a drop-dead gorgeous Shepherd/ Greyhound named Hopey. Currently, she is working on her first paperback comic, an autobiographical trilogy chronicling her life as an Adopted Roman Catholic Lesbian. The first book of the three, entitled *Bastard*, will be in bookstores early next year. This is her *Gay Comics* premiere.

J. A. Fludd is a New York artist whose art on *Sentinel/Pride* is getting some notice. He's written for the *Fantaco Chronicles* , and he belongs to the Gaylactic Network, the international organization of gay and lesbian science fiction fans. He contributed artwork to the *Super Deck!* trading card game, and is exhibiting and selling art at SF and comic conventions around the country. His stories with Andy Mangels will be collected in a *Sentinel/Pride* collection to appear early next year. His previous *Sentinel* stories were in *Gay Comics* #16-18 and 20.

Andy Mangels edits *Gay Comics* (since issue #14), and has written various comics, including *Bloodwulf* for Image. His book, *Star Wars: The Essential Guide To Characters* was recently published by Del Rey, and his writing appears regularly in *Star Wars Galaxy* and *Fan* magazines. He's also the publisher and editor of an erotic magazine of uniformed men, called *IN UNIFORM The Magazine*. He's written *Sentinel* stories in *Gay Comix/Comics* #14, 16-18, and 20.

David Kelly is the creator of *Steven's Comics*, a syndicated strip that appears in queer friendly publications around the country. David is also featured in *Boy Trouble*, a zine of "Queer Boy Comics with a New Attitude" and he co-edits it with fellow cartoonist Robert "Curbside" Kirby. *Steven's Comics* #3 is the latest mini-collection of his strip. All issues are available for $3 each (please specify) from DK Press, PO Box 1450, Chicago, IL 60690-1450. This is his *Gay Comics* premiere.

Roberta Gregory wrote and drew the first openly lesbian comic, *Dynamite Damsels*, in 1976. Since then, she's done *Winging It* and *Artistic Licentiousness*, as well as her tremendously good *Naughty Bits* series. For more information and a free catalog, send a SASE to her at PO Box 27438, Seattle, WA 98125. Roberta holds the distinction of having appeared in more issues of this series than any other cartoonist. Look for her in *Gay Comix/ Comics* #1-7,10-17, and 20-21.

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2 - From The Editor
3 - Contents
4 - Heartbreakers: My Lover... My Clone
12 - Walter Ego: The Kloseted Kid
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Artists:

Paul Guinan - 1, 4-11(a)
Andy Mangels - 2(t), 28-32(s)
Anina Bennett - 4-11(s)
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Comments:

n/a